WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A card reader which takes in a card having a magnetic stripe at a card insertion port and reads data recorded on said magnetic stripe by a magnetic head; said data read is saved, then, a timer is started; wherein said saved data is made unavailable for reading after a given time elapses.

2.   A card reader which takes in a card having a magnetic stripe at a card insertion port and reads data recorded on said magnetic stripe by a magnetic head; said data read is saved and edited, then, a timer is started; wherein said saved data and/or said edited data are/is made unavailable for reading after a given time elapses.

3.   A card reader as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said data saved is deleted after said given time elapses, thereby making said data unavailable for reading.

4.   A card reader as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said data saved and/or said data edited are/is deleted after said given time elapses, thereby making said data unavailable for reading.

5.   A card reader as set forth in Claim 1 wherein a flag which makes said data saved available for reading is turned off after a given time elapses, thereby making said data unavailable for reading.

6.   A card reader as set forth in Claim 2 wherein a flag which makes said data saved and/or edited available for reading is turned off after a given time elapses, thereby making said data unavailable for reading.

7.   A method of controlling a card reader which takes in a card having a magnetic stripe at a card insertion port and reads data recorded on said magnetic stripe by a magnetic head, the method comprising:
         saving said data read; and
         starting a timer, wherein said saved data is made unavailable for reading after a given time elapses.

8.   A method of controlling a card reader which takes a card having a magnetic stripe at a card insertion port into a card reader and reads data recorded on said magnetic stripe by a magnetic head, the method comprising:

saving and editing said data read;

starting a timer, wherein said saved data and/or said edited data are/is made unavailable for reading after a given time elapses.

9.   A card reader that takes in a card having a magnetic stripe at a card insertion port, comprising:

a magnetic head operable to read data recorded on the magnetic stripe;

a memory that stores the data read by the magnetic head; and

a processing circuit operable to transmit the stored data to a higher level device upon authorization, the processing circuit further operable to make the data stored in the memory unavailable for reading after a given time elapses.

10.   The card reader according to claim 9, further comprising a timer wherein the processing circuit starts the timer when the data read by the magnetic head is stored and the processing circuit reads the time elapsed in the timer.

11.   The card reader according to claim 9, wherein the processing circuit edits the data read by the magnetic head prior to storage in the memory.